

Hackett, William

Trans. April 1914

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Mr. William Gladstone,
16 Paulette Street,
Toronto.

March 28th, 1914

Dear Mr. Gladstone:

I have this morning received your letter and am sorry that you were not satisfied with the arrangements made by Mr. Hamilton. I have again considered the matter carefully with Mr. Hamilton, and have discussed your letter with him. I am afraid that Mr. Hamilton and you have an entirely different view as to the way in which you left the Press. Mr. Hamilton maintains that you were not dismissed, as you say for having disobeyed rules, but that you left because you were not satisfied with the wages you were getting, which were more than the union rate calls for.

Mr. Hamilton informs me that the night you left he offered to place you on the regular union rate of \$13.35 with time and half for over time, the rate at which you were taken on in the autumn, which however you refused. Such a refusal is quite intelligible on your part because the higher rate of \$10 a week with regular pay for over time was giving you more than the regular rate would include. It seems to me that you would have acted wisely in continuing to work on the terms that you were getting, which was giving you more than the regular rate would have done.

Mr. Hamilton informs me that now that you have left your place has been filled, and there is no vacancy. I am extremely sorry, as Mr. Hamilton himself is, that owing to your giving up your place you have been thrown out of employment, but I do not see what it is possible for us

(W. Gladstone)

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March 28th, 1914

to do in the circumstances, because the Press cannot take on more than it has work for. Mr. Hamilton says that he will be able to give you a good certificate of character that will help you to get employment elsewhere if there should be an opening. What else we can do I cannot in the meantime see.

Yours sincerely,

President.

March 31st, 1914

Mr. William Gladstone,
16 Paulette Street,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Gladstone:

I am afraid that I have not been able to form a clear impression of any injustice that has been done to you in the Press. The state of affairs as far as I have been able to make it out after reading your letter, hearing you, and having two conversations with Mr. Hamilton is as follows: There was a position to be filled for which the ordinary scale of wages was to be paid. I cannot understand why you were willing to accept this position at a rate very much lower than that on your card, and continue to do so without protest for several months. It seems to me that you voluntarily took work that another man might have been doing.

In answer to your complaint about dismissal I can only say that Mr. Hamilton assures me that there was no change demanded in your status nor a compulsory reduction in your rate of wages, but that you voluntarily left because you did not get a rise in wages.

Yours sincerely,

President.

16 Paulette St. 603

March 20/14

To the President of the Toronto
University.

Dear Sir,

I received your letter.

After my detailed exposition

of my case & my effort to
impress upon you that I

am a journeyman pressman

& worked as a pressman

& not as a feeder I

was surprised at its con-

tents. To make the

matter clear to you I enclose

my membership card whereon

you will find the scale of wages recognized in Toronto Printing Offices.

* Please bear in mind that I was not engaged as a feeder & never belonged to their organization. That a feeder is not supposed to make-ready or to take charge of presses. That the Advt. that I responded to was for a pressman to make-ready & run only one platen press. ^{Mr} Hamilton's talk about paying me the scale is therefore incorrect & a superfluous

He may pull the wool over some
~~peoples~~ persons eyes but not mine.

Now, as to my dismissal.
As I reported to you the
proposition was put to me
to go on another press where
the day man was getting \$18⁰⁰
per week + time + a half for
over time. This person is not
a pressman or a Union man.

Now, Sir, does it seem re=
asonable or just that I should
be commanded to submit to
either a reduction of wages to
obtain the regular rate of overtime
in such circumstances. I was
told to either accede or get out.

Incidentally I was like a person
standing on the edge of a precipice
with another behind who said:
If you don't jump I'll push you!

Oh, yes! Mr. Hamilton may
be a great juggler & I may
not be considered on the same
plane of intelligence as he,
but I have I have just as
great sense of justice & right-
ousness & an inborn education
that transcends some other kinds
(ab extra - ab intra)

Yours, most respectfully
Wm. Gladstone

* p.s. Will you kindly submit this
part to Mr. Hamilton & Bedford.
Also the card

Toronto Printing Pressmen's Union



OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA

WORKING CARD

Toronto,.....*March 22nd*.....191*4*.....

This Certifies that.....*W. Gladstone*.....
the bearer hereof, is a member in good standing of Toronto Printing Pressmen's
Union, and is entitled to work in all Union Offices in this jurisdiction.

\$1.00 This Working Card expires.....
Dues Received.....

C. W. Keates.....Fin. Sec'y.

SCALE OF PRINTING PRESSMEN'S

UNION No. 10

JUNE 1st, 1913—JUNE 1st, 1915

DAY WORK

| | |
|--|---------|
| Week of 48 hours | \$20.00 |
| Wages by the hour, per hour | 42 cts. |
| Overtime on Day rate, per hour..... | 56 cts. |
| Extra overtime on Day rate, per hour.. | 84 cts. |

NIGHT RATES

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Night Staff per week of 48 hours..... | \$23.00 |
| Night Staff per hour | 48 cts. |
| Night Staff overtime, per hour | 64 cts. |

In each case where amount per hour is over the half cent, the even upward amount is charged in this table, and where under the half cent the even amount downward, etc.

Confidential

16 Paulette St 605
March 29/14

To the President of the Toronto
University.

Sir

According to your direction I
interviewed Mr. Hamilton but was
greatly disappointed with the
result - which was that he

Simply paid me the wages due
to me for the current week &
the balance of my overtime for
the previous ~~was~~ fortnight. At
first he demurred re. the latter

or proffered me "a present of money
out of his own pocket" as he said
"because of sympathy & esteem
for my character &c. &c." This
I finally refused; remarking that
I never accepted money except
for services rendered. He then
requested me to sign a blank
form. I refused. He made out
another according to what I have
related. He also made some
vague promises of future employment
&c. That he would give me the
best recommendations &c.

Now, Sir, I contend that all
this falls short of equity, justice,

or compensation for the injustice done me in summarily dismissing me. I had hoped for something better after your kind intervention. Hence my disappointment!

Why I should be thrown out to swell the ranks of the unemployed — with the accompanying suffering of my wife & children, through no fault of mine, & by an Institution like the Toronto University, exceeds my comprehension — & that of others also.

Surely, Sir, you are in the position to make some restitution or call for a proper investigation.

There is a flagrant case: on this date I learned both from Mr Hamilton & the guilty person that on the previous night a pressman had come to his work — 'drunk' & was allowed to work, but was unable to fulfill his duties. (Just fancy if the readers of "The School" knew this.) Such are allowed to stay on whilst I, because I would not disobey the rules, am turned down!

Surely it must be obvious to you that if this becomes public it must have a baneful effect upon the officials of the University & be detrimental to its Prestige.

Yours, most respectfully,
William Gladstone

16 Portland St 624
April 1/14

To the President of the Toronto
University

Sir

As you seem to be of
the same spirit as Mr Hamilton
- obdurate & diplomatic & it
appears futile to continue further
& I will transfer my missionary
work elsewhere.

I will just add that
during the last few days I
have met a few persons who
were treated in a similar
manner & who told me of
the futility of my efforts

W^m Gladstone

